

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07
TRSE-00 AID-05 DHA-02 /086 W
-----050530 042202Z /62

O R 042130Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4479
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T NDJAMENA 2229

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, CD
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN NORTHERN CHAD

1. SITUATION IN NORTHERN CHAD APPEARS WORSENING. BARDAI MAY FALL
TONIGHT AND THERE HAS BEEN A NEW ATTACK ON ZOUAR.

2. SUDANESE AMBASSADOR, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM KHARTOUM, SAID
JULY 4 THAT SUDANESE/EGYPTIAN MILITARY MISSION TO CHAD HAD PRODUCED
NO DECISIONS, ONLY SOME UNPECIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS. SUDANESE
AMBASSADOR, INCIDENTALLY, DISCOUNTED IMPORTANCE OF REBEL ATTACK
AGAINST POLICE POST NEAR GUENAINA, SAYING THAT ATTACK MOUNTED BY
DISSIDENTS ARMED ONLY WITH KNIVES AND SWORDS, AND THAT LOSS OF
FOUR POLICEMEN INDICATIVE ONLY OF UNPREPARED STATE OF OUTPOST.
HE ALSO MAINTAINED THAT ATTACK OCCURRED SOME 20 DAYS AGO. EGYPTIAN
AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT JOINT MILITARY MISSION UNDER COMMAND OF
SUDANESE GENERAL, HAD SPENT BUT TWO DAYS IN CHAD, AND, HE IMPLIED
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WAS INEFFECTIVE. DECISIONS, IF ANY
ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, WOULD BE REACHED IN LIBREVILLE
AFTER NUMEIRY, SADAT, AND MALLOUM HAD HAD CHANCE TO DISCUSS QUESTION
TOGETHER.

3. FRENCH HAVE INCREASED SUPPORT CHADIAN ARMED FORCES, PARTICULARLY
IN AREAS OF SPARE PARTS AND MUNITIONS. FRENCH AMBASSADOR BRIEFED

ON CHADIAN APPROACH TO US DURING BRIEF COMMUNICATION AT JULY 4TH
RECEPTION. HIS INITIAL RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF OPINION FRENCH
GOVERNMENT ON PARELLEL OR SEPARATE OTHER COUNTRY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD
WAS THAT THIS SHOULD BE LEFT TO QUAI AND/OR ELYSEE IN PARIS IN
CONSULTATION WITH US. OTHER PERSONAL OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY SENIOR
FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICERS WAS TO WELCOME PARALLEL AID. FRENCH AMBASSADOR

HAS AGREED INSTRUCT HIS MILITARY ATTACHE TO BRIEF DATT PROMPTLY
ON DETAILS FRENCH RESPONSE TO CHADIAN NEEDS. I EXPECT TO MEET WITH
FRENCH AMBASSADOR DULY 5 FOR MORE DETAILED REVIEW OF SITUATION.

4. NO QUESTION, HOWEVER, THAT CHADIAN REQUEST FOR AIRLIFT FOR
EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO RENEWED REQUEST FOR
MILITARY ASSISTANCE. CHADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO SECURE MEANS OF
COMMUNICATIONS WITH ITS WASHINGTON EMBASSY OTHER THAN COURIER, AND
WASHINGTON EMBASSY OF CHAD MAY BE CONSIDRED ALWAYS TO BE SEVERAL DAYS
IF NOT WEEKS BEHIND POLICIES OF CHADIAN GOVERNMENT ON SENSITIVE
QUESTIONS. MATTER OF AIRLIFT FOR FOOD AID MADE OBSELESCENT BY
CURRENT REBEL ATTACKS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT IF NOT
IMPOSSIBLE MOUNT AIRLIFT INTO THESE AREAS. FRANCE, INCIDENTALLY,
WITHDREW LAST WEEK 3 TRANSALLS WHICH HAD COMPLETED 650 MT AIRLIFT.

5. ACTING PRESIDENT IN ABSENCE OF MALLOUM IN LIBREVILLE, VICE
PRESIDENT OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL DJIME, HAS REQUESTED MEETING
WITH AMBASSADOR EVENING JULY 4. EMBASSY PRESUMES THAT MEETING'S
PURPOSE IS TO CONVEY LIST OF ARMAMENTS AS SUGGESTED BY AMBASSADOR
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ON JULY 1. DETAILS WILL BE REPORTED JULY 5.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: SUSPECT THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS HEARD REPORTS
IF NOT DETAILS OF POSSIBLE ROLE OF THIRD COUNTRIES. MAY AMBASSADOR
INFORM HIM OF SITUATION AS KNOWN TO EMBASSY N'DJAMENA IN MEETING
JULY 5? REQUEST NIACT IMMEDIATE REPLY. BRADFORD

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NNN

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